

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS:

This Amendment cancels claims 8, 25 and 34, and adds new claims 35-37, support for which is at paragraphs [00036] (claims 35-36) and [00025] (claim 37). Independent claims 5 and 15 are amended with subject matter disclosed at para [00037]. No new matter is added. Dependency of claim 13 is amended and excess verbiage removed, and dependency of claim 23 is corrected.

The office action dated September 20, 2006 made the following rejections:

- Claims 5, 7-8, 13 and 21-25 as obvious over Line, Deng, Leaming, Jeffries, Roth, and ordinary skill as evidenced by Papa and Chen;
- Claims 15, 18 and 28-34 as obvious over Moran, Lien, Deng, Leaming, Jeffries, Roth and ordinary skill as evidenced by Papa and Chen.

Interview Summary:

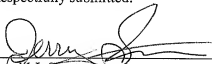
An interview was held on December 18, 2006 between the undersigned representative, Examiner Spittle, and supervisor Examiner Rinehart. Now-canceled claim 8, which recited a microprocessor coupled between the actuator and the connector that sends a request for the operating system of the host device to execute an interrupt command, was discussed in view of references to Roth and Moran. It was agreed that the controller of Roth was not disclosed as within the external storage device 150. Examiner Rinehart indicated he recalled art that disclosed a processor in a body of a portable flash device, and encouraged a more distinctive element than the processor and request recited in now-canceled claim 8. The undersigned suggested subject matter from para [00037] of the written description. It was agreed that amending the independent claims to recite a processor within a portable flash device that selects, from a plurality of interrupt messages, one message specific to the operating system of the host device, would distinguish over the cited art. Exact claim language was not discussed.

Each of the independent claims 5 and 15 are amended to recite the agreed subject matter. As an additional distinguishing element, dependent claims 35-36 recite a circuit light controller

coupled between the micro controller and the indicator, shown at Figure 4A as reference number 28 and detailed at para [00036]. Note that claims 35-36 recite a circuit light controller, which is distinct from mere logical processing, as described in the cited disclosure.

This also is seen as patentably distinguishing over the cited art, even apart from the micro controller and plurality of interrupt messages added herein to the independent claims. The undersigned respectfully requests the Examiner now pass the pending claims to issue. The undersigned representative welcomes the opportunity to resolve any matters that may remain, formal or otherwise, via teleconference at the Examiner's discretion.

Respectfully submitted:



Gerald J. Stanton
Reg. No.: 46,008

December 19, 2006
Date

Customer No.: 29683
HARRINGTON & SMITH, LLP
4 Research Drive
Shelton, CT 06484-6212
Phone: (203) 925-9400
Facsimile: (203) 944-0245
Email: gstanton@hspatent.com